

HOTEL

Jaragua



CIUDAD TRUJILLO • REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

Mr. Branch Riskey
 46 Pittsburgh B.B. Club
 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Riskey,

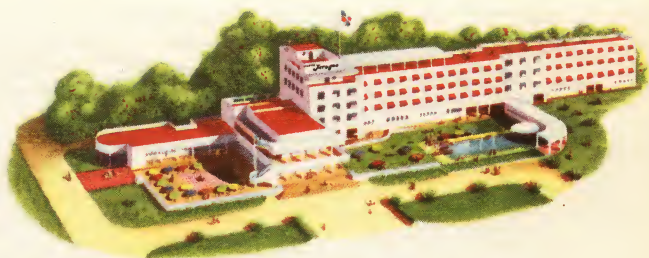
I have been intending to write for about a month now and it seems that finding the right words come hard so I will attempt at this time to put them down.

It is certainly tough on everyone in Brooklyn to have you leave the organization but to me its much worse and I don't mind saying we (my family) hate to see you go but realize that baseball is like that and anything can happen. It has been the finest experience I have had being associated with you and I want to thank you very much for all you have meant not only to me and my family but to the entire country and particularly the members of our race. I am glad for your sake that I had a small part to do with the success of your efforts and must admit it was your constant guidance that enabled me to do it. Regardless of what happens to me in the future it all can be placed on what you have done and believe me I appreciate it.

I don't know the circumstances that is send you to

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sell but I am smart enough to know that a person does not
sell a growing thing unless there is some misunderstanding some
place but I do want to wish you and your family the very best
of everything and sincerely hope that you are able to bring to
Pittsburg just what you did to Brooklyn and St Louis I hope
to end my playing in Brooklyn as it means so very much but
if I have to go any place I hope it can be with you.

my wife joins me in saying thanks very much Mr. Pickney and
we sincerely hope that we can always be regarded as your friend
and whenever we need advice we can call on you as usual
regardless of where we may be.

my very best wishes to you and yours and a hope for
your continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Jackie Robinson

December 31, 1950

Mr. Jackie Robinson
St. Albans, N. Y.

Dear Jackie:

It is not at all because of lack of appreciation that I have not acknowledged your good letter of sometime ago. Neither your writing and sending the letter, nor its contents, gave me very much surprise. I have observed that you have learned long ago that most things, good or bad, just don't happen to people by accident. Your thoughtfulness in the field of so-called unimportant things has doubtless led to much of your success. Anyhow, the fact that you wrote the letter, and particularly the things you said in it, not only meant very much to me, and was, as I have said, deeply appreciated, but it also revealed why you have come to so much deserved distinction.

I hope the day will soon come when it will be entirely possible, as it is entirely right, that you can be considered for administrative work in basketball, particularly in the direction of field management.

I do not know of any player in the game today who could, in my judgment, manage a major league club better than yourself. I recently made this statement in the presence of several writers in the course of various remarks, but I have looked in vain for the reporting of the statement.

Very often during these holidays, I have thought of you and Rachel and the family. I choose to feel that my acquaintanceship with you has ripened into a very real friendship, growing out of our facing and trying to solve common problems and our continuous record of seeing eye to eye in practically all of these problems that faced us.

I do not suppose that our paths will probably parallel again in any close fashion, but I do want you and Rachel to know that always I, and, indeed the family, will have a constant and lasting interest in your welfare and happiness.

As I have often expressed to you, I think you carry a great responsibility for your people, and I am sure that you sense the duties resting upon you because of that responsibility, and I cannot close this letter without once more admonishing you to prepare yourself to do a widely useful work, and, at the same time, dignified and effective in the field of public relations. A part of this preparation, and I know

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you are smiling, for you have already guessed my oft repeated suggestion, - to finish your college course meritoriously, and get your degree. It would be a great pleasure for me to be your agent in placing you in a big job after your playing days are finished. Believe me always.

Sincerely yours,

Branch Rickey

BR/b